

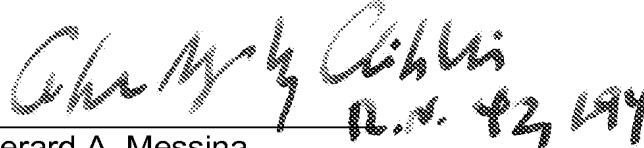
REMARKS

With the cancellation herein without prejudice of claim 24, claims 11 to 13, 15 to 21 and 23 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for immediate allowance, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

As regards the restriction requirement, it is first noted that the restriction requirement is improper for at least the reason that the unity of invention standard under PCT Rule 13 was not applied in the present **national phase** application. Notwithstanding the foregoing, claim 24 has been canceled herein without prejudice, thereby rendering moot the restriction requirement.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for immediate allowance. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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